



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

Eric Melgren, U.S. Attorney

Contact: Jim Cross

(316) 269-6481

Headquarters

1200 Epic Center
301 N. Main
Wichita, Kansas 67202
(316)269-6481
FAX (316)269-6484

Topeka Office

444 Quincy
Topeka, Kansas 66683

Kansas City Office

500 State Avenue
Suite 360
Kansas City, Kansas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News releases are available at www.usdoj.gov/usao/ks/

Jan. 12, 2005

151-MONTH SENTENCE LAST CHAPTER OF PARSONS MAN'S PART IN DRUG CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Shannon Harris**, 29, Parsons, Kan. has been sentenced to 151 months in federal prison on drug charges. He was sentenced Jan. 10 by U.S. District Judge G. Thomas VanBebber.

Harris pleaded guilty May 28, 2004, to one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute more than 50 grams (1.76 ounces or more) of crack cocaine from January 1998 through September 2003. Harris also admitted to a forfeiture allegation, which requires him to forfeit all rights, interest, and ownership in \$3,840 that is the proceeds of drug trafficking activities.

Harris admitted at his plea that beginning in at least January 1999, Harris and several others were engaged in distributing crack cocaine to other individuals in Southeast Kansas and Southwest Missouri. Harris and his co-defendants would obtain larger quantities of cocaine hydrochloride (powder) and then manufacture the cocaine base ("crack cocaine") or sometimes purchase large quantities of crack cocaine and sell it in smaller quantities. Harris distributed varying quantities of crack cocaine to lower level distributors. The amounts of crack cocaine ordered by this drug trafficking organization at one time was often 2 ounces, but could be as much as 9 ounces, which was subsequently distributed in southeast Kansas and southwest Missouri. Beginning Feb. 1, 2002, residences in Parsons, Kan., were utilized to store, package and distribute the crack cocaine and marijuana. One of the residences was leased to Harris.

Melgren commended the work of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, the

Parsons Police Department, the Labette County Sheriff's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, the Coffeyville Police Department, the Winfield Police Department, the Joplin, Mo., Police Department, the Labette County Attorney's Office, and the Cowley County Attorney's Office in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Rask in this prosecution.